

MULTIPLE ACCESS SYSTEM FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Abstract

- 5 A communications access network comprising a combination of fibre and co-axial cable to the home having co-axial cable deployed in the home comprises a head end, to which outstations are coupled via an optical fibre medium incorporating a star coupler or splitter. The head end is arranged to transmit downstream to the outstations a sequence of frames comprising data frames
- 10 and command frames. The command frames comprise first and second frames and provide marshalling control of upstream transmissions from the outstations. The first command frame incorporates a global command to all outstations to pause upstream transmission for a pre-set time period. The second command
- 15 command having an associated zero time period and addressed to a selected outstation overriding said global command thus allowing that one selected outstation to transmit to the head end.

(Figure 1)